

English key for Gulliver's Travels
Published circa 1897
Written in
Pre-Anniversary 1893 Gregg Shorthand
(Version 19, February 13, 2025)

Please note:

- This Gregg Shorthand book, with shorthand plates written by Fred Tyndall, does not use many paragraph marks to indicate paragraph changes. In this key, paragraph changes were only made when they were indicated in the shorthand book.
- The methods of indicating new paragraphs varied greatly throughout the shorthand book. At different times, the following paragraph indicators were used:
 - An X (Rule of the 1893 Gregg Shorthand Manual).
 - A > (Rule of the 1888 and 1898 Gregg Shorthand Manuals, as well as later versions of the Gregg Shorthand Manual).
 - Spacing of the shorthand lines, similar to creating a new paragraph in an English book. (This is acceptable.)
- Tyndall changed the rules of writing words and punctuation as the book continued, as if it were done over several months and not made consistent throughout.
- Tyndall was inconsistent with capitalization of nouns.
- Capitalization inconsistencies, incorrectly written words, and punctuation errors found in the shorthand book were kept in this English key.

- Sometimes Tyndall wrote the same word twice in two different ways. In one instance, he crossed out the word “shrill” and wrote it again correctly.
- The writing is very sloppy and hard to read. It seems to adhere to the 1893 Gregg Shorthand Manual, although this shorthand book was written in 1897.
- The English-language magazine that this shorthand book was based on came out in January 1897: *Books for the Bairns*, No. 11. The English text in that magazine is similar to what is found in this shorthand book, but it is not an exact match.
- *Books for the Bairns*, No. 11, covers chapters 1 through 8 of *Gulliver’s Travels: A Voyage to Liliput*. This Gregg Shorthand book ends in the middle of chapter 5.

Information from the shorthand book title page:

Gulliver's Travels
Translated into Gregg's Shorthand
By
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Edinburgh School of Shorthand and Typewriting
40 Shandwick Place

Edinburgh
Lithographed By McFarlane & Dickson.

Price Sixpence

Gulliver's Travels.
Part One.
A Voyage to Liliput.

My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons. I was bound apprentice to Mr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London with whom I continued four years. I was surgeon in several ships, and made several voyages, for six years, to the East and West Indies, by which I got some addition to my fortune.

I accepted an offer from Captain W. P., Master of the Antelope, who was making a voyage to the South Sea. We set sail from Bristol, May 4, 1699, and our voyage at first was very prosperous.

In our first passage to the East Indies, we were driven by a violent storm North East of Van Diemen's Land. Twelve of our crew died by immoderate labor and ill food, the rest were in a weak condition. On the fifth of November, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship; but the wind was so strong that we were driven directly upon it and immediately split. Six of the crew of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and rock. In about half an hour the boat was overturned by a sudden flurry from the north.

What became of my companions in the boat or of those who escaped on the rock, I cannot tell, but conclude they were all lost. [End of Page 1]

For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and was pushed forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop, and could feel no bottom. But when I was almost gone, and able to struggle no longer, I found myself within my depth; and, by this time, the storm was much abated. I walked near a mile before I got to the shore, which was about eight o'clock in the evening. I then advanced forward near half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or inhabitants; at least, I was in so weak a condition that I did not observe them. I was extremely tired, and with that and the heat of the weather, and about half a pint of brandy that I drank as I left the ship, I found myself very much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very soft and short, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life, and, as I reckoned, above nine hours, for when I awoke it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir. For as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs strongly fastened on each side to the ground; and my hair which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner. I likewise felt several slender ligatures across my body, from my armpits to my thighs. I could only look upwards, the sun began to grow hot, and the light offended my eyes. I heard a confused noise about me. But in the posture I lay could see nothing but the sky. In a little time I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which advancing gently forward over my breast came almost up to my chin. When bending my eyes downwards

as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands and a quiver at his back. [End of Page 2] In the meantime I felt at least forty more of the [same] kind following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill [word written twice] but distinct voice, Hekinah Degul. The others repeated the same words several times, but I then knew not what they meant. I lay all this while, as the reader may believe, in great uneasiness; at length, struggling to get loose, I had the fortune to break the strings and wrench out the pegs that fastened my left arm to the ground; for, by lifting it up to my face, I discovered the methods they had taken to bind me. And at the same time, with a violent pull, which gave me excessive pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches. But the creatures ran off a second time, before I could seize them; whereupon there was a great shout in a shrill accent, and after it ceased I heard one of them cry aloud, Tolgo Phonac; when in an instant I felt above a hundred arrows discharged on my left hand, which pricked me like so many needles; and besides they shot another flight into the air, as we do bombs in Europe whereof many, I suppose, fell on my body (though I felt them not) and some on my face, which I immediately covered with my left hand. When this shower of

arrows was over, [End of Page 3] I fell a-groaning with grief and pain, and then, striving again to get loose, they discharged another volley larger than the first, and some of them attempted to spear me in the sides, but, by good luck, I had on me a buff jerkin, which they could not pierce. I thought it the most prudent method to lie still, and my design was to continue so till night, when my left hand, being already loose, I could easily free myself, and, as for the inhabitants, I had reason to believe I might be a match for the greatest armies they could bring against me, if they were all of the same size with him that I saw. But Fortune disposed otherwise of me. When the people observed I was quiet they discharged no more arrows; but by the noise I heard I knew their numbers increased; and about four yards from me, over against my right ear, I heard a knocking for about an hour, like that of people at work, when, turning my head that way, as well as the pegs and strings would permit me, I saw a stage erected about a foot and a half from the ground, capable of holding about four of the inhabitants, with two or three ladders to mount it, from whence one of them, who seemed to be a person of quality, made me a long speech, whereof I understood not one syllable. But, I should have mentioned that, before the principal person began his oration, he cried out three times, Langro Dehul San (these words and the former were afterwards repeated and explained to me), whereupon immediately about fifty of the inhabitants came and cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head which gave me the liberty of turning to the right and of observing the person and gesture of him that was to speak. [End of Page 4.] He appeared to be of middle age, and taller

than any of the other three who attended him, whereof one was a page that held up his train, and seemed to be somewhat longer than my little finger. The other two stood one on each side to support him. He acted every part of an orator, and I could observe many periods of threatenings of promises, pity, and kindness. I answered in a few words, but in the most submissive manner, lifting up my left hand and both my eyes to the sun, as calling him for a witness; and being almost famished with hunger, having not eaten a morsel for some hours before I left the ship, I put my finger frequently on my mouth, to signify that I wanted food. The Hurgo, or great lord, understood me very well. He descended from the stage, and commanded that several ladders should be applied to my sides, on which about a hundred of the inhabitants mounted, and walked towards my mouth, laden with baskets full of meat, which had been provided and sent thither by the king's orders. There was the flesh of several animals, but I could not distinguish them by the taste. There were shoulders, legs and loins shaped like those of mutton, and very well dressed, but smaller than the wings of the lark. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful, and took three loaves at a time, about the size of musket bullets. They supplied as they could, showing a thousand marks of wonder and astonishment at my bulk and appetite. I then made another sign that I wanted drink. They found by my eating that a small [End of Page 5] quantity would not suffice me, and being a most ingenious people, they slung up with great dexterity one of their largest hogsheads, then rolled it towards my hand, and beat out the top. I drank it off at a draught, which I might well do, for it did not hold half a pint, and tasted like a small wine of

Burgundy, but much more delicious. They brought me a second hogshead which I drank in the same manner, and made signs for more. But they had no more to give me. When I had performed these wonders they shouted for joy, and danced upon my breast, repeating several times as they did at first, Hekinah Delgul [sic, should be "degul"]. They made me a sign that I should throw down the two hogsheads, but first warning the people below to stand out of the way, crying aloud, Borach Mevolah and when they saw the vessels in the air there was a universal shout of Hekinah Degul.

After some time, when they observed that I made no more demands for meat, there appeared before me a person of high rank from his Imperial Majesty, who pointed forwards towards the capital city, about half a mile distance, whither it was agreed by his majesty in council that I must be conveyed. I made a sign to signify that I desired my liberty. It appeared that they understood me well enough, for he shook his head by way of disapprobation, and held his hand in a posture to show that I must be carried as a prisoner. [End of page 6]

Upon this the hurgo and his train withdrew. I slept about eight hours, for the physician, by the emperor's orders, had mingled a sleepy potion in the hogsheads of wine.

It seems that upon the first moment I was discovered sleeping on the ground after my landing, the emperor had notice of it by express, and determined in council that I should be tied in the manner I have related (which was done in the night while I

slept) that plenty of meat and drink should be sent to me, and a machine prepared to carry me to the capital city.

This prince had several machines fixed on wheels for the carriage of trees and other great weights. He often builds his largest men of war, whereof some are nine feet long, in the woods where the timber grows, and has them carried on these engines three or four hundred yards to the sea. Five hundred joiners and engineers were immediately set to work to prepare the greatest engine they had. It was a frame of wood raised three inches from the ground, about seven feet long and four wide, moving upon twenty-two wheels. The shout I heard was upon the arrival of this engine which it seemed set out in four hours after my landing. It was brought parallel to me as I lay.

But the principal difficulty was to raise and place me in this vehicle. Eighty poles, each one foot high, were erected for this purpose, and the very strong cords of the thickest packthread were fastened by hooks to many [End of Page 7] bandages, which the workmen had girt round my neck, my hands, my body, and my legs. Nine hundred of the strongest men were employed to draw up these cords by many pulleys fastened on the poles and thus in less than three hours I was raised and slung into the engine, and there tied fast. All this I was told, for while the whole operation was performing, I lay in a profound sleep. Fifteen hundred of the Emperor's largest horses, each about four and a half inches high, were employed to draw me towards the Metropolis, which, as I said, was half a mile distant.

We made a long march the remaining part of the day, and rested at night with five hundred guards on each side of me, half of the men with torches and half with bows and arrows ready to shoot me if I should offer to stir. The next morning at sunrise we continued our march, and arrived within two hundred yards of the city gates at noon. The emperor and all his court came out to meet us.

At the place where the carriage stopped there stood an ancient temple, the largest in the whole kingdom, which having been polluted some years before by an unnatural murder, was, according to the zeal of these people, looked on as profane. In this edifice it was determined I should lodge. The great gate fronting to the north was about four feet high and almost two feet wide through which I could easily creep. [End of page 8]

On each side of the gate was a small window not above six inches from the ground; into that on the left side, the King's smiths conveyed four score and eleven chains, like those that hang to a lady's watch in Europe, and almost as large, which were locked to my left leg with thirty-six padlocks. Over against this temple, on the other side of the great highway, at twenty feet distance, there was a turret at least five feet high. Here the emperor ascended with many principal lords of his court, to have an opportunity of viewing me, as I was told, for I could not see them. It was reckoned that above a hundred thousand inhabitants came out of the town upon the same errand; and, in spite of my guards, I believe there could not be fewer than ten thousand, at several times, who mounted upon my body by

the help of the ladders. But a proclamation was soon issued to forbid it on pain of death. When the workmen found it was impossible for me to break loose, they cut all the strings that bound me; whereupon, I rose up with as melancholy a disposition as ever I had in my life. But the noise and astonishment of the people at seeing me rise and walk are not to be expressed. The chains that held my left leg were about two yards long, and gave me not only the liberty of walking backwards and forwards in a semi-circle, but, being fixed within four inches of the gate, allowed me to creep in, and lie at full length in the temple.

When I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must [End of page 9] confess I never beheld a more entertaining prospect. The country round appeared like a continued garden, and the enclosed fields, which were generally forty feet square, resembled so many beds of flowers. The tallest trees as I could judge, appeared to be seven feet high. I viewed the town on my left hand, which looked like the painted scene of a city in a theater.

The emperor was already descended from the tower, and advancing on horseback towards me, which had like to have cost him dear; for the beast, though very well trained, yet wholly unused to such a sight, which appeared as if a mountain moved before him, reared up on his hinder feet, but that prince, who is an excellent horseman, kept his seat till his attendants ran in and held the bridle, while his Majesty had time to dismount. When he alighted, he surveyed me with great

admiration, but kept without the length of my chain. The Emperor is taller by almost the length of my chain than any of his court, which is alone enough to strike an awe into the beholders. His features are strong and masculine, all his motions graceful and his deportment majestic. He was then past his prime, being twenty-eight and three-quarters years old, of which he had reigned about seven in great felicity and generally victorious. His dress was very plain and simple, and the fashion of it between the Asiatic and the European, but he had on his head a light helmet of gold, adorned with jewels, and a plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself if I should [End of page 10] happen to break loose. It was almost three inches long, the hilt and scabbard were gold, enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill, but very clear and articulate, and I could distinctly hear it when I stood up. I spoke to them in as many languages as I had the least smattering of which were High and Low Dutch, Latin, French, Spanish, Italian and Lingua Franca, but all to no purpose. After about two hours the court retired, and I was left with a strong guard, to prevent the impertinence and probably the malice of the rabble, who were very impatient to crowd about me as near as they durst, and some of them had the impudence to shoot their arrows at me as I sat on the ground by the door of my house, whereof one very narrowly missed my left eye. But the colonel ordered six of the ringleaders to be seized, and thought no punishment so proper as to deliver them bound into my hands, which some of his soldiers accordingly did, pushing them forward with the butt ends of their spikes into my reach. I took them all in my right hand, put

five of them into my coat pocket, and as to the sixth, I made a countenance as if I would eat him alive. The poor man squalled terribly and the colonel and his officers were in much pain, especially when they saw me take out my penknife; but I soon put them out of fear, for, looking mildly and immediately cutting the strings he was bound with I set him gently on the ground and away he ran. I treated the rest in the [End of page 11] same manner, taking them one by one out of my pocket, and I observed both the soldiers and people were highly obliged at this mark of my clemency, which was represented very much to my advantage at court.

Towards night I got with some difficulty into my house, where I lay on the ground and continued to do so about a fortnight, during which time the emperor gave orders to have a bed prepared for me. Six hundred beds of the common measure were brought in carriages and worked up in my house, a hundred and fifty of their beds sewn together made up the breadth and length, and these were four double which, however kept me but very indifferently from the hardness of the floor that was of smooth stone. By the same computation, they provided me with sheets and blankets, and coverlets, tolerable enough for one who had been so long inured to hardship as I.

In the meantime, the Emperor held frequent councils to debate what course should be taken with me. They apprehended my breaking loose, that my diet would be very expensive and might cause a famine. Sometimes they determined to starve me or at

least to shoot me in the face and hands with poisoned arrows, which would soon dispatch me; but, again, they considered that a stench of so large a carcass might produce a plague in the metropolis and spread through the whole kingdom. [End of page 12.]

In the midst of these consultations, several officers of the army went to the door of the great Council Chamber, and two of them being admitted, gave an account of my behavior to the six criminals above-mentioned, which made so favorable an impression in the breast of his Majesty and the whole board in my behalf, that an Imperial Commission was issued out, obliging all the villages nine hundred yards round the city to deliver in every morning six beeves, forty sheep, and other victuals for my sustenance, together with a proportionable quantity of bread, and wine, and other liquors, for the due payment of which his Majesty gave assignments upon his treasury. An establishment was also made of six hundred persons to be my domestics, who had board wages allowed for their maintenance, and tents built for them very conveniently on each side of my door. It was likewise ordered that three hundred tailors should make me a suit of clothes after the fashion of the country, that six of his Majesty's greatest scholars should be employed to instruct me in their language, and, lastly, that the emperor's horses, and those of the nobility and troops of guards, should be frequently exercised in my presence to accustom themselves to me. All these orders were duly put in execution, and in about three weeks I made great progress in learning their language, during which time the emperor frequently honored me with his visits,

and was [End of page 13] pleased to assist my masters in teaching me.

After they made an examination of all I had in my pockets, the emperor directed me, although in very gentle terms, to deliver up the several particulars. He first called for my scimitar, which I took out, scabbard and all. In the meantime he ordered three thousand of his choicest troops (who then attended him) to surround me at a distance, with their bows and arrows just ready to discharge. The next thing he demanded, was one of the hollow iron pillars, by which he meant my pocket pistols. I drew it out, and at his desire, as well as I could, expressed to him the use of it. Charging it only with powder, I first cautioned the emperor not to be afraid, and then let it off in the air. Hundreds fell down as if they had been struck dead; and even the emperor, although he stood his ground, could not recover himself for some time. I likewise delivered up my watch, which the emperor was very curious to see. He commanded two of his tallest yeomen of the guard to bear it on a pole upon their shoulders, as draymen in England do a barrel of beer. My scimitar, pistols and pouch were conveyed in carriages to his Majesty's stores. The rest of my goods were [End of page 14] returned to me.

The natives came by degrees to be less apprehensive of any danger from me. I would sometimes lie down and let five or six of them dance on my hand. And at last the boys and girls would venture to come and play at hide-and-seek in my hair. The horses of the army and those of the royal stables, having been

daily fed before me, were no longer shy, but would come to my very feet without starting. The riders would leap them over my hand, as I held it on the ground, and one of the emperor's huntsmen, upon a large courser, took my foot, shoe and all, which was indeed a prodigious leap. I had the good fortune to divert the emperor one day, letting a troop of his best horses twenty-four in number, come and exercise upon my handkerchief, which I stretched on sticks two feet high. But once a fiery horse that belonged to one of the captains, pawing with his hooves, struck a hole in my handkerchief, and his foot slipping he overthrew his rider and himself, but I immediately relieved them both, and covered the hole with my hand, I set down the troop with my other, in the same manner as I took them up. The horse that fell was strained in the left shoulder, [End of page 15] but the rider got no hurt, and I repaired my handkerchief as well as I could; however I would not trust to the strength of it anymore in such dangerous enterprises.

About two or three days before I was set at liberty, as I was entertaining the court with these kinds of feats, there arrived an express to inform his Majesty that some of his subjects, riding near the place, where I was first taken up, had seen a great black substance lying on the ground, very oddly shaped, extending its edges round as far as his majesty's bedchamber, and rising up in the middle as high as a man; that it was no living creature, as they at first apprehended, for it lay on the grass without motion, and some of them had walked around it several times; that by mounting upon each other's shoulders, they got to the top, which was flat and even, and stamping

upon it they found it was hollow within; that they humbly conceived it might be something belonging to the Man-Mountain, and if his majesty pleased, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses. The next day the wagoners arrived with my hat, but not in a very good condition; they had bored two holes in the brim, within an inch and a half of the edge, and fastened two hooks in the holes; these hooks were tied by a long cord to the harness, and thus my hat was dragged along about half an English mile. [End of page 16.]

Two days after this adventure, the Emperor, having ordered that part of his army which quarters in and about his Metropolis to be in readiness, took a fancy of diverting himself in a very singular manner. He desired that I would stand like a Colossus, with my legs as far asunder as I conveniently could. He then commanded his general (who was an old experienced leader and a great patron of mine) to draw up the troops in close order and march them under me, the foot by twenty-four in abreast, and the horse by sixteen, with drums beating, colors flying, and pikes advanced. This body consisted of three thousand foot and a thousand horse.

At last in a full council, my liberty was given me, on conditions, which I had to swear to observe, in the manner prescribed by their laws, which was to hold my right foot in my left hand and my thumb on the tip of my right ear.

The treaty by which I gained my liberty began thus: —

Most Mighty Emperor of Liliput, Delight and Terror of the Universe, whose dominions extend about twelve miles in circumference; monarch of all monarchs, taller than the sons of men; whose feet press down to the center, and whose head strikes against the sun; at whose nod the princes of the earth shake their knees; pleasant as the spring, comfortable as the summer, fruitful as the autumn, dreadful as the winter: his sublime majesty proposes to the Man-Mountain, lately arrived to our Celestial dominions, the following articles which by a solemn oath he shall be obliged to perform. [End of page 17.]

Then followed eight articles. After which the treaty proceeded, upon which I made a solemn oath to observe all the above articles, the said man-mountain shall have a daily allowance of meat and drink sufficient for the support of 1,700 of our subjects, with free access to our royal person and other marks of our favor. Given at our Palace at Belfaborac the twelfth day of the ninety-first moon of our reign.

I swore and subscribed to these articles with great cheerfulness and content, whereupon my chains were immediately unlocked, and I was at full liberty.

I afterwards learned that his Majesty's mathematicians, having taken the height of my body by the help of a quadrant, and finding it to exceed theirs in the proportion of twelve to one, they concluded, from the similarity of their bodies, that mine must contain at least 1,700 of theirs, and consequently would

require as much food as was necessary to support that number of Liliputians.

The first request I made, after I had obtained my liberty was, that I might have license to see Mildendo, the metropolis; which the Emperor easily granted me, but with a special charge to do no hurt either to the inhabitants or their houses. The people had notice by proclamation of my design to visit the town. The wall which encompassed it is two feet and a half high, and at least eleven inches broad, so that a coach and horses may be driven very safely through it; and it is flanked with strong towers at ten feet distant apart. I stepped over the great western gate and passed [End of page 18] very gently, and sidling through the two principal streets, only in my short waistcoat, for fear of damaging the roofs and eaves of the houses with the skirts of my coat. The garret windows and tops of houses were so crowded with spectators, that I thought in all my travels I had not seen a more populous place. The city is an exact square, each side of the wall being five hundred feet long. The two great streets, which cross and divide it into four quarters, are five feet wide. The lanes and alleys, which I could not enter, but only viewed them as I passed, are from twelve to eighteen inches. The town is capable of holding five hundred thousand souls. The houses are from three to five stories; the shops and markets well provided.

The emperor's palace is in the center of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is enclosed by a wall of two feet high, and twenty feet distant from the buildings. I had his majesty's

permission to step over the walls, and the space being so wide between that and the palace, I could easily view it on every side. The outward court is a square of forty feet, and includes two other courts; in the inmost are the royal apartments, which I was very desirous of seeing, but found it extremely difficult. The buildings of the outer court were at least five feet high and it was impossible for me to stride over them without infinite damage to the pile, though the walls were strongly built of hewn stone. The emperor had a great desire that I should see the magnificence of his palace; but this I was not able to do till three days after, which I spent in [End of page 19] cutting down with my knife some of the largest trees in the royal park, about one hundred yards from the city. Of these trees I made two stools, each about three feet high and strong enough to bear my weight. The people having received notice a second time, I went again through the city to the palace with my two stools in my hands. When I came to the side of the outer court, I stood upon one stool, and took the other in my hand; this I lifted over the roof, and gently set it down on the space between the first and second court, which was eight feet high. I then stepped over the buildings very conveniently, from one stool to another, and drew up the first after me with a hooked stick. By this contrivance I got into the inmost court, and lying down upon my side, I applied myself to the windows of the middle stories, which were left open on purpose, and discovered the most splendid apartments that can be imagined.

One morning about two weeks after I had obtained my liberty, the Principal Secretary of Private Affairs came to my house,

attended only by one servant. He told me that the Kingdom of Liliput was vexed with squabbles at home and war abroad. He said for above seventy moons past there had been two struggling parties in this empire under two names.

It is alleged, indeed, that the high heels which these men possessed, are most agreeable to our ancient constitution; but his majesty's imperial heels are lower at least by one fourteenth part of an inch than any of his own court. The animosities between these two parties run so high that they neither eat, nor drink. [End of page 20] Now in the midst of these intestine disquiets we were threatened with an invasion from the island of B., which is the other great empire of the universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his majesty. Our histories of six thousand moons making no mention of any other regions than the two great empires of Liliput and B. which two mighty powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most obstinate war, for thirty-six moons past. It began upon the following occasion: —It is allowed on all hands, that the primitive way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers.

Whereupon the Emperor his father, published an edict, commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the small end of their eggs. The people so highly resented this law, that our histories tell us, there have been six rebellions raised on that account, wherein one Emperor lost his life and another his crown. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have, at

several times, suffered death rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end. Many hundred large volumes have been published upon this controversy, but the books of the Big Endians have been long forbidden, and the whole party rendered incapable by law of holding employments. The Big Endians exiles have found so much credit in the Emperor of B's court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their party here at home, that a bloody war has been carried on between the two empires [End of page 21] for thirty-six moons with various success; during which time we have lost forty capital ships, and a much a greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers; and the damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours. However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet, and are just preparing to make a decent upon us; and his Imperial Majesty, placing great confidence in your valor and strength, hath commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you.

I desired the Secretary to present my humble duty to the Emperor and to let him know, that I ready, with the hazard of my life, to defend his person and state against all invaders.

The empire of B. is an island situated to the north-east side of Liliput, from whence it is parted only by a channel of eight hundred yards wide. The enemy's whole fleet, lay at anchor in the harbor, ready to sail with the first fair wind. I gave orders for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was about as thick as packthread, and the bars of the size

of a knitting needle. I trebled the cable to make it stronger, and for the same reason, I twisted three of the iron bars together, binding [sic, should be "bending"] the extremities into a hook. Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the north-east coast and putting off my coat, shoes and stockings, walked into the sea in my leathern jerkin, about half an hour before high water. [End of page 22] I waded with what haste I could, and swam in the middle about thirty yards, till I felt ground; I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour. The enemy were so frightened when they saw me, that they leaped out of their ships and swam to shore, where they could not be fewer than thirty thousand souls. I then took my tackling, and fastened a hook to the hole at the prow end of each, I tied all the ends [sic, should be "cords"] together at the end. While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face; and beside the excessive smart, gave me much disturbance in my work. I had now fastened all the hooks, and, taking the knot in my hand, began to pull, but not a ship would stir, for they were all held too fast by their anchors, so that the boldest part of my enterprise remained. I therefore let go the cords, and leaving the hooks fixed to the ships, I resolutely cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors, receiving about two hundred shots in my face and hands; then I took up the knotted end of the cables to which my hooks were tied, and with great ease, drew fifty of the enemy's largest men of war after me. The Blefuscudians, who had not the least imagination of what I intended, were at first confounded with astonishment.

They had seen me cut the cables, and thought my design was only to cut the ships loose and let the ships run adrift, or fall foul [“foul” is written twice, two different ways] on each other; but when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling [End of page 23] at the end, they set up such a scream of grief and despair, that it is almost impossible to describe or conceive. When I had got out of danger, I stopped awhile to pick out the arrows that stuck in my hands and face, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the middle with my cargo, and arrived safe at the Royal Port of Liliput.

The emperor and his whole court stood on the shore expecting the issue of this great adventure. This great prince received me at my landing with all possible encomiums, and created me a nardac upon the spot, which is the highest title of honor among them.

—The End.—
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